



RI Water Resources Board

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Interim Current Conditions Report through May 22, 2012

WRB has worked closely with the National Weather Service and US Geological Survey to provide an update on water conditions prior to the full report which is prepared on a monthly basis.

Since the May 8 Drought Steering Committee meeting, WRB staff worked with USGS and NWS to evaluate the major drought indices and to provide preliminary month to date information to the Committee as requested. In summary, conditions have been improving and the impacts on the drought indices **result in meeting one (groundwater) of the four required thresholds for issuing a drought advisory:**

Precipitation: May precipitation to date has resulted in one month, two month and 3 month averages that fall within the normal range. The forecast is for above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for the rest of May.

Palmer Drought is in the normal range.

Groundwater remains below normal, though there has been slight improvement. If this persists that would be 3 months below normal for groundwater at the end of the month.

Streamflow is predominantly normal.

The data that will be collected and reported after the end of the month will be more complete and will be compiled and distributed as soon as it is available. At this time, WRB staff will continue to closely monitor conditions and provide updates to the Committee via email. We do not recommend a meeting on June 12 but will convene at a later date if conditions warrant.

WRB extends our thanks to Gardner Bent, USGS and Nicole Belk, NWS for getting the updates to us so quickly.